

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



December 6, 2016

Election of Council Officers, Safe Routes to School and Zoning Changes



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/packet/index.html> .

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council agenda can always be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/agenda/col/current_agenda.pdf .

On Dec. 6 at 9:30 a.m. the Council will discuss the County's State Legislative Program. At 10:35 a.m. Council President Nancy Floreen will give remarks about her year leading the Council. At 10:45 a.m. the Council will hold its election of officers. General Council business will begin at 11:25 a.m.

COUNCIL



Bill 48-16, Taxation-Credit to Offset Certain Income Tax Revenue-Amendments

The Council will introduce Bill 48-16. The lead sponsors are Councilmembers Navarro, Katz and Riemer. A public hearing is scheduled on January 17 at 1:30 p.m. Bill 48-16 would clarify the eligibility for the property tax credit to offset certain income tax revenues. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5001&meta_id=129052 .

In June the GO Committee requested that staff draft legislation that would clarify that a property owner did not need to qualify for the State Homestead Tax Credit to be eligible for the County's Property Tax Credit for Income Tax Offset or ITOC. Bill 48-16 would clarify the County's interpretation of the current law and remove any ambiguity that has arisen since the State began requiring a property owner to apply for the State Homestead Tax Credit.



Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendation-Development Plan Amendment (DPA) 17-01, Duball BW LLC

The Council will take action on the Hearing Examiner's report and recommendation for a Development Plan Amendment for Duball BW LLC, which is located at the northwest corner of Woodmont Ave. and Battery Lane in Bethesda. The property has approximately 340 feet of frontage on Woodmont Ave. and approximately 60 feet of frontage on Battery Lane. The property is zoned PD-75 and the gross tract area is 22,618 square feet. Approval of DPA 17-01 would remove Textual Binding Element #10 which requires the street commercial space to be occupied by a "quality restaurant" and allow any retail/service establishment use. If DPA 17-01 is approved, the applicant will need to amend the previously approved site plan to reflect the change in use and modify Binding Element #10. The staff report can be viewed at:

<http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/ViewerServlet.do?document=136&event=5001&meta=129054> .



Zoning Text Amendment 16-19, Gross Floor Area-Mechanical Equipment

The Council will introduce ZTA 16-19. The lead sponsor is Council President Floreen. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m. ZTA 16-19 would exclude from the calculation of gross floor area floor space exclusively used for mechanical equipment for any Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production use. The staff report can be viewed at:

<http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/ViewerServlet.do?document=136&event=5001&meta=129057> .

- Currently the floor area used for mechanical equipment is excluded from the calculation of gross floor area in the Life Science Center (LSC) and Industrial zones. This exclusion applies to any use in those zones. Councilmember Floreen was made aware that Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production may include an inordinate amount of mechanical equipment space in a building. A Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production use is allowed in the Commercial Residential (CR), Life Science Center (LSC), Employment Office (EOF), and Industrial zones. ZTA 16-19 would exclude the floor area used for mechanical equipment needed for Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production in any zone in which the use is allowed.



Zoning Text Amendment 16-20, Overlay Zone-Bethesda

The Council will introduce ZTA 16-20. The lead sponsor is Council President Floreen at the request of the Planning Board. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. ZTA 16-20 would establish a Bethesda Overlay zone with development standards, land use standards, and a process for the approval of development in the zone. The staff report can be viewed at:

<http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/ViewerServlet.do?document=136&event=5001&meta=129060> .

- The Bethesda Overlay zone is intended to implement the Planning Board's recommended Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan. The PHED Committee worksessions on the Planning Board's Draft Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan will begin in January. The Plan recommends a unique process for allowing additional density above the density allowed by current zoning.
- Under the Planning Board proposal, development seeking additional density would be required to:
 - provide a greater number of affordable dwelling units;
 - contribute to increased open space; and
 - be subject to review by a design review panel.



OLO Report 2017-1, Impact of Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School Program

The Council will review and discuss OLO Report 2017-1 on Safe Routes to School, which is a national and international model for making walking and bicycling to school safer and more accessible for children. The County initiated its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in 2004. The Council requested this OLO study to understand the impact of SRTS in the County and if the program should be expanded. OLO found that pedestrian and bicycle collisions near schools

decreased following SRTS engineering improvements, and that this decrease differed from Countywide trends. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2017%20Reports/OLOREport2017-1-MontgomeryCountySafeRoutesToSchool.pdf> .

OLO staff recommends the following questions for the Council discussion:

- What opportunities exist to further support pedestrian and bicycle safety around schools?
- Given that the SRTS program is a low-cost intervention that appears to have generated results, do opportunities exist to expand the use of SRTS concepts?